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Harmony Centre is a non-profit community arts and events facility located in Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada. Housed in a 27,000-square-foot historic former church, the Centre serves as a hub for music, culture, recreation, education, and community gatherings. Since its establishment as an independent organization in 2012, Harmony Centre has become one of the region's leading accessible venues for arts programming and civic engagement.

Harmony Centre

Formation	2012
Founder	Community volunteers
Type	Non-profit organization

History

The building that houses Harmony Centre was originally constructed in the late 19th century as **Knox United Church**, a prominent downtown congregation in Owen Sound. Following declining attendance and rising maintenance costs, the church property was purchased in 2012 by a group of

community volunteers who sought to preserve the historic landmark and repurpose it as an inclusive, multi-use cultural facility.

The new organization adopted a volunteer-led governance model and began renovations to modernize the aging structure while retaining its historic architectural features. Over the following decade, Harmony Centre expanded its programming and became home to a wide range of arts, cultural, and community groups.

Legal status	Registered charity
Purpose	Community arts, culture, social programs
Headquarters	Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada
Location	890 4th Avenue East, Owen Sound
Region served	Grey and Bruce Counties
Website	harmonycentre.ca (https://harmonycentre.ca)

Facilities

Harmony Centre includes a variety of performance, rehearsal, meeting, and collaborative spaces:

- **Graeves Auditorium** – A large performance hall used for concerts, theatre productions, lectures, and community events. In 2025, fixed pews were removed and replaced with moveable theatre seating, allowing for flexible configurations such as café-style layouts.
- **Lower Hall** – A multi-purpose space used for community meals, youth programs, workshops, and recreational activities.
- **Studios and Lofts** – The Centre rents **13 studios** and **8 lofts** on a monthly basis to local artists, musicians, therapists, educators, and community groups. These long-term tenants are known as the Centre's *Resident Partners*.
- **Meeting rooms and practice spaces** – Smaller rooms used for rehearsals, community meetings, arts instruction, training sessions, and administrative work.

The building retains its original stained glass, woodwork, and acoustically resonant design, making it a valued venue for musical performance.

Resident Partners and Community Headquarters

Harmony Centre's long-term occupants, known as **Resident Partners**, include artists, musicians, counsellors, educators, and non-profit organizations. These groups rent the Centre's studios and lofts month-to-month, forming a stable and active community within the facility.

For emerging or volunteer-led organizations unable to afford a dedicated office, Harmony Centre offers a **Community Headquarters** program, which provides affordable access to office amenities, a mailing address, and meeting and workspace as needed.

Programs and Activities

Harmony Centre hosts a wide range of cultural and community activities throughout the year, including:

- Concerts and live music presented by local and touring performers.
- Rehearsals and performances by choirs, theatre groups, orchestras, and acoustic

ensembles.
- Workshops and classes focused on arts, creativity, wellness, and education.
- Community events such as public forums, conferences, and charity fundraisers.

The Centre is also frequently used by local festivals and arts organizations, including the Roxy Theatre (Owen Sound), SweetWater Music Festival, Georgian Bay Folk Society (producers of Summerfolk), Fiddlefern Country Dancers, and the Georgian Bay Symphony.

Governance and Operations

Harmony Centre is operated by a volunteer **Board of Directors** and supported by a broad network of community volunteers. As a registered charity, the organization is funded through donations, grants, rentals, and community partnerships.

Affordability and accessibility are core to its mission. Many community groups receive rental subsidies, and the Community Headquarters program supports organizations that lack resources for full-time office space.

Community Impact

Since its founding, Harmony Centre has become a central gathering place in Owen Sound. Hundreds of community members use the facility each week for music, education, wellness, cultural programming, and community services. The Centre's combination of affordable rental spaces, resident partner program, and broad community collaborations has contributed significantly to the cultural and economic vitality of the region.

See also

- Owen Sound
- Arts in Grey and Bruce Counties
- Adaptive reuse

External links

- Official website (https://harmonycentre.ca)

References

External links

- www.example.com (http://www.example.com)

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